

I Am He. Jesus Presents Himself as Certainty in Times of Doubt
John 13:12-22 I used to watch a certain science fiction television program every week. One of my favorite episodes is where the two main characters are shipped up to an arctic science station where some murders have taken place. They and a group of others realize that the murderer is among them. That one of this small group of people is continuing to kill the others. This causes great distrust and uncertainty among each other. They begin to doubt, question and turn on each other. This scene in John Ch 13 is somewhat similar in that when it is revealed by the Saviour that one of them will betray him, it throws the disciples into a fringes of doubt and uncertainty. Ex John 13:22. We see more fully the reaction in the other gospels: Matt 26:22 + Luke 22:23. The last time we heard Jesus say "I am He" he was saying it to the Jews in Jn 8, now he is saying the same thing to His disciples. Those who already believe that "I am He" in Jn 8 Jesus address disbelief but here, he addresses doubt. There is a difference between doubt and unbelief. Warren Wiersbe said... That's exactly where these disciples are: heart broken, confused and in doubt. But Christ is presenting himself as the Certainty that cuts through doubt and strengthens belief in Him. E.C. Campbell says
I. The Confidence of His Choosing vs 18 - This, to me, would seem to be a very tense moment in that upper room. Christ had hinted that something was going to happen in vs 12-14. In vs 14-15 there is a revelation

among the group. (Christ the living word) is discerning the thoughts.
A. He Knows the Beloved - "I knew whom I
have chosen." Jesus in earthly ministry hand picked
twelve apostles to be his most intimate group. Like all
men that Christ laid eyes on He knew them
completely. He knew the thoughts and intents
of their hearts. We are the disciples of his choosing. From
eternity past in the foreknowledge of God, he saw the hearts
of those that would believe upon his name and chose us. Ex
Mission trip - who's going raise hand, choose those raise hand.
God knows his that are his own. He knows my heart and my
true desire toward him. Ps 1:6, He writes on the very founda-
tion of God: 2 Tim 2:19. My sheep... So many times our heart
may condemn us w/doubt. Thank God! In 3:20, Even in L also case.

B. He Knows the Betrayer - But the other
side of the coin is that he knows the one that
are not his as well. For the sake of the fulfillment
of Scripture one of the ones closest to him was to be
a betrayer. All through the past 3 1/2 years of ministry
he has seen the heart of betrayal in Judas. All this
going completely unsuspected by the disciples. From
outward appearance they would all seem unified, oh but
in the eyes of Christ, their heart is in stark contrast to the others.
I read Ps 1:6 a moment ago but not all. Matt Henry, You all
look like good baptist, but I can't see your heart. Are
you the venomous apostate among us? Take heart child of God.

II. The Clarity of His Course - For the
past 33 1/2 years of Jesus life, He has been on a steady
course toward Calvary. This momentary trial of doubt

Matthew 26:22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

Luke 22:23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

Warren Weirby – There is a difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is a matter of the mind: we cannot understand what God is doing or why He is doing it. Unbelief is a matter of the will: we refuse to believe god's Word and obey what he tells us to do. Un belief is an act of the will, while doubt is born out of a troubled mind and out of a broken heart.

Every Christian can over come their doubts by laying hold of the following three truths.

Psalms 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous...

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his....

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Psalms 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

- There is a mixture of bad with good in the best societies, a Judas among the apostles.

Pastor Dan Barker was an Assemblies of God Pastor for 17 years, today he is the lead atheist of a group that endeavors stamp out Christianity anywhere they find it.

Luke 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

...hath everlasting life. John 6:51 ...if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:... John 7:37 ...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. John 10:9 ...by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved... John 6:35 ...I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

In times of doubt we have His word to rely on!

Matthew Henry - By his clear and certain foresight of things to come..., he gave incontestable proof, he proved himself to be the true God, before whom all things are naked and open. Christ foretold that Judas would betray him when there was no ground to suspect such a thing, and so proved himself the eternal Word, which is a *discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*.

in the eyes of Disciples has not and will not deter Christ in the least little bit. We can find certainty in the ^{Direction} clear cut course of Gods

A. His doings are in accordance w/ the Scriptures - vs 18

According to Jesus the whole reason there is a nation

among them is so that the scripture might be fulfilled. From the onset of Christ's earthly ministry He was concerned about the fulfillment of the scripture. Upon reading the prophetic passage in Is 61:1-2 in His home town synagogue (Lk 4:21). This mention in Jn 13:18 is the first of 5 passages in the remaining chapters of John that pertain to Christ's fulfillment of scripture. Mt 5:18 Christ is preeminently concerned w/ keeping his word. Christ is assuring them that heaven & earth shall pass away but his word shall not pass away. His word says 5 times "He that believeth..."

B. His Disciples will be in acceptance of His Sovereignty vs 19

This prophetic word from Christ, detailing future events, that to his disciples were unbelievable and unsettling was given to sure up their belief that Christ is the Messiah. He turns the offence of Judas on its head and instead of it being a stumbling block makes it a stepping stone. Instead of shaking their faith, it surs their faith. Matthew Henry said... The wonders of His Sovereignty charging a course to Calvary and ultimately to the right hand of the Father

was like a constellation of stars pointing his disciples to the reality of His Godhood. That He is Messiah, the Mediator

III. The Character of His Care - If there is one thing that can settle our doubts more than all others it is in being assured of the care or love of Christ

Judas, as an apostle, was admitted to the highest privilege: he did *eat bread with Christ*. He was familiar with him, and favoured by him, was one of his family, one of those with whom he was intimately conversant. Wherever he went, Judas was welcome with him, did not dine among servants, but sat at table with his Master, ate of the same dish, drank of the same cup, and in all respects fared as he fared. He ate miraculous bread with him, when the loaves were multiplied, ate the passover with him.

...as the certainty that we can cling to weather the storms of doubt.